

HOUSE BILL 659

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2003 Regular Session
3r1925
CF 3r2079

By: **Delegates V. Clagett, Bobo, Bronrott, Conway, Dwyer, Franchot, Frush,
Holmes, Leopold, Love, Mandel, McConkey, Moe, Montgomery,
Morhaim, Rudolph, Sophocleus, ~~and Walkup~~ Walkup, Hogan, Owings,
and Stern Stern, and G. Clagett**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2003
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted with floor amendments
Read second time: March 18, 2003

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Environment - Task Force on Water Resource Management - Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on Water Resource Management;
4 providing for the membership of the Task Force; requiring the Governor to
5 appoint the chair of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to examine certain
6 management, development, conservation, and protection issues relevant to
7 ground and surface water, perform certain assessments, and make certain
8 findings, recommendations, and cost estimates; providing for reimbursement for
9 the expenses of a member of the Task Force; requiring the Department of the
10 Environment, in consultation with certain other State agencies, to staff the Task
11 Force; requiring the Task Force to submit ~~an interim and final report~~ certain
12 reports to the Governor and the General Assembly by certain dates; stating the
13 intent of the General Assembly; providing for the termination of this Act; and
14 generally relating to the establishment of the Task Force on Water Resource
15 Management.

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
17 MARYLAND, That:

18 (a) There is a Task Force on Water Resource Management.

19 (b) The Task Force shall consist of the following 23 members:

20 (1) two members of the House of Delegates appointed by the Speaker of
21 the House;

- 1 (2) two members of the Senate of Maryland appointed by the President
2 of the Senate;
- 3 (3) the Secretary of the Environment or the Secretary's designee;
- 4 (4) the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene or the Secretary's
5 designee;
- 6 (5) the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary's designee;
- 7 (6) the Secretary of Natural Resources or the Secretary's designee;
- 8 (7) the Special Secretary of the Office of Smart Growth or the Secretary's
9 designee; and
- 10 (8) 14 members to include representatives of county and municipal
11 governments, environmental interest organizations, the agricultural ~~and business~~
12 community, research institutions, the business community, including the car wash
13 industry, and other persons from the general public with relevant interest or
14 expertise:
- 15 (i) five of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- 16 (ii) five of whom shall be appointed by the President of the Senate;
17 and
- 18 (iii) four of whom shall be appointed by the Governor.
- 19 (c) The Governor shall appoint the chair of the Task Force.
- 20 (d) The Task Force shall:
- 21 (1) review the latest information from State, local, and federal agencies
22 concerning assessments of the quality and quantity of the management and
23 protection of the State's ground and surface water resources;
- 24 (2) review the results of ongoing scientific research regarding climate
25 change and its regional impacts on aquifer depletion and recharging models;
- 26 (3) review State, local, and federal laws, regulations, and policies related
27 to the management, development, conservation, and protection of ground and surface
28 water resources;
- 29 (4) assess the adequacy of existing governmental resources, regulatory
30 enforcement, and monitoring programs that are available for the management,
31 development, conservation, and protection of the State's ground and surface water
32 resources;
- 33 (5) develop models to assess trends regarding the State's major aquifers;

1 (6) recommend additional actions, studies, policies, regulations, or laws
2 necessary to assure that the management and protection of the State's ground and
3 surface water resources are conducted in a manner consistent with the long-term
4 sustainable use and protection of the water resources; and

5 (7) provide a cost estimate and funding alternatives for implementation
6 of each recommendation.

7 (e) A member of the Task Force:

8 (1) may not receive compensation; but

9 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
10 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

11 (f) The Department of the Environment, in consultation with other
12 appropriate State agencies, shall provide staff support for the Task Force.

13 (g) The Task Force shall submit to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of
14 the State Government Article, to the General Assembly:

15 (1) ~~an interim report~~ interim reports of its activities and
16 recommendations on or before ~~December 31, 2003~~ May 31, 2004 and May 31, 2005;
17 and

18 (2) a final report of its findings and recommendations on or before May
19 31, ~~2004~~ 2006.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the
21 General Assembly that the Task Force:

22 (1) consider any findings and recommendations of the Governor's Water
23 Resource Management Advisory Committee established under Executive Order
24 01.01.2002.05; and

25 (2) continue the work of that Advisory Committee.

26 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
27 effect June 1, 2003. It shall remain effective for a period of ~~1 year~~ 3 years and, at the
28 end of May 31, ~~2004~~ 2006, with no further action required by the General Assembly,
29 this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

